

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle key system for verifying identity of fingerprint information about a user's fingerprint and for  
5 controlling pieces of equipment in a vehicle according to a verification result, said system comprising:

a transmitter including a fingerprint information capturing means for capturing fingerprint information from a user's fingerprint, and a transmitting means for transmitting  
10 the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means together with a system-specific identifier; and

a receiver disposed in the vehicle, including a receiving means for receiving the fingerprint information and the  
15 identifier transmitted from said transmitting means of said transmitter, a verification means for verifying the received fingerprint information against a list of pieces of previously stored fingerprint information, and for verifying the received identifier against a previously stored identifier, and a  
20 control means for controlling said pieces of equipment in the vehicle according to verification results from said verification means.

2. A vehicle key system for verifying identity of fingerprint information about a user's fingerprint and for  
25 controlling pieces of equipment in a vehicle according to a verification result, said system comprising:

a transmitter including a fingerprint information capturing means for capturing fingerprint information from a  
30 user's fingerprint, and a transmitting means for transmitting

a receiver disposed in the vehicle, including a receiving means for receiving the information from said transmitting means of said transmitter, a verification means for, when the received information includes the captured fingerprint information, verifying the received fingerprint information against a list of pieces of previously stored fingerprint information, and for, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, verifying the received identifier against a previously stored identifier, and a control means for controlling said pieces of equipment in the vehicle according to at least a verification result from said verification means; and

3. The vehicle key system according to Claim 2, wherein said transmitter includes a display means for displaying kinds of the information selected by said transmission information selecting means.

4. The vehicle key system according to Claim 2, wherein said transmission information selecting means includes an operation means that is manipulated by the user when selecting the information to be transmitted by said transmitting means

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11. ~~The vehicle key system according to Claim 2, wherein~~  
~~if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint~~

information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

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12. The vehicle key system according to Claim 3, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

13. The vehicle key system according to Claim 4, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

14. The vehicle key system according to Claim 5, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

15. The vehicle key system according to Claim 6, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs

16. The vehicle key system according to Claim 7, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

17. The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

18. The vehicle key system according to Claim 9, wherein  
if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint  
information, when the received information includes the  
20 system-specific identifier, said verification means performs  
only the verification of the received identifier against a  
previously stored identifier.

25 19. The vehicle key system according to Claim 10, wherein  
if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint  
information, when the received information includes the  
system-specific identifier, said verification means performs  
only the verification of the received identifier against a  
30 previously stored identifier.

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